



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
Washington, DC 20240

IN REPLY REFER TO:

JUL 12 2016

Dear Tribal Leader:

On November 10, 2015, the new Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), Housing Improvement Program (HIP) regulations in 25 Code of Federal Regulation (CFR), Part 256 was published in the Federal Register. For a copy of the new HIP regulations please the BIA website at: <https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2015/11/10/2015-28547/housing-improvement-program>

One of the primary goals of the new regulations is to align HIP with other Federal program income requirements and allow tribes flexibility to address housing needs for families with very low income. The new HIP regulation provides down payment assistance options for families who can obtain a mortgage loan from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), or other programs. The HIP regulation allows assistance for applicants who can lease property for a home site and revises selection criteria which include an opportunity for younger families to compete for aid, considers veteran status as a ranking factor for eligibility, and increases square footage limits to comply with Americans with Disabilities Act requirements.

If your tribe operates the HIP, we encourage you to participate in the webinar training being offered by the BIA, Office of Indian Services (OIS), Division of Human Services (DHS). The training will provide a comprehensive overview of the new regulations. In addition to training on the new regulations, the DHS will also offer training on the following HIP topics: a HIP Overview (*Nuts and Bolts*) and the Annual Performance Reporting required for the HIP.

The first training will be held on **Wednesday, August 10, 2016**. The training topic will be HIP Revised Regulations and there will be two sessions held on this date, at two different times. Each training session will cover the same content.

- **Topic: HIP Revised Regulations (25 CFR Part 256)**

Session #1: 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time (EST)

Session #2: 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. EST

The second training will be held on **Wednesday, August 24, 2016**. There will be two training series offered on this date, at two different times. Each training series will cover two topics on HIP during the designated time frame.

- **Series #1: 11:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. EST**

Topic 1: Tribal Annual Performance Report: 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. EST

Topic 2: HIP Overview (*Nuts & Bolts*): 12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. EST

▪ **Series #2: 2:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. EST**

Topic #1: Tribal Annual Performance Report: 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. EST

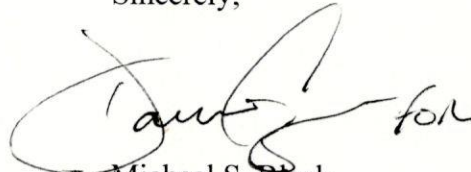
Topic #2: HIP Overview (*Nuts & Bolts*): 3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. EST

To register, visit the BIA website at:

<http://www.bia.gov/WhoWeAre/BIA/OIS/HumanServices/HousingImprovementProgram/index.htm>

If you need additional information on the webinar, please contact Mr. Les Jensen, Housing Improvement Program Officer at (907) 586-7397 or via email: leslie.jensen@bia.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael S. Black", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Acting

Michael S. Black

Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs